

THE OLD CURIOSITY SHOP.



A MONTHLY JOURNAL DEVOTED TO

PHILATELY, NUMISMATICS,
ANTIQUITIES, BRIC-A-BRAC,
AND NATURAL HISTORY.



Vol. I. No. 4.

CLEVELAND, OHIO, MARCH, 1883.

Price, 6 cents.

PHILATELY.

Newly Issued Stamps.

This month THE OLD CURIOSITY SHOP is enabled to announce the following new stamps:

UNITED STATES.—The 1 and 2 cent envelopes, No. 2 size, on white and amber, have been withdrawn, and the same values, sizes 3, 4½ and 5, will hereafter be supplied on the two papers. All envelopes under the new contract will probably have the new watermark "U. S. P. O. D.," and "82."

AZORES.—The 25 reis Portugal has been surcharged in small type.

CHILL.—Some time ago it was announced that new postal cards were being prepared by the American Bank Note Co. Two values are now before us: 1 centavo green, and 2 centavos, carmine on green.



COSTA RICA.—A new and very handsome series has been emitted. The design is here illustrated, and the list is as follows: 1 centavo, green; 2 centavos, carmine; 5 centavos, purple; 10 centavos, orange; 40 centavos, blue.

DOMINICA.—We have seen specimens of the penny stamp, cut in half, perpendicularly, and surcharged ½d. in red.

GERMAN EMPIRE.—Double 5 pfennig cards are found with the following dates on the lower right corner: 7.82, 8.82, 9.82, 10.82.

INDIA.—An entire new series of stamps is said to be in preparation.

JAPAN.—A change of color has been made in several of the current issue, viz: 1 sen, green; 2 sens, rose; 5 sens, blue.



QUEENSLAND.—A new sixpenny stamp is in circulation of the design shown in the adjoining cut. The color of it is green.

PORTUGUESE INDIES.—Some time ago

we gave credence to a rumor that postal cards were being prepared. We understand that they are now in use. Two are mentioned, ½ tanga, blue on buff, and 1 tanga, red on gray.

ST. CHRISTOPHER.—We lately saw the half of a penny stamp which had done duty as a ½ penny stamp.



TRINIDAD.—A couple of new stamps, ½ penny green and 1 penny carmine, have been emitted.

The design is as here shown.

NATURAL HISTORY.

Hints About Making Bird Skins.

Skin the head close down to the base of the beak, especially in front of the

out when the skin is relaxed for mounting, and even if they do not, whoever mounts the bird will find it necessary to separate the skin from the skull in order not to leave a ridge of feathers marking the boundary between the skinned and unskinned portions. Always leave in all but the head of the humerus in a good-sized bird. *Never on any account* detach the secondaries from the ulna in birds of the size of the red-shouldered hawk and upward. True, the bird may never be mounted, but very likely, too, he may, and to do good work on a large bird the secondaries *must* be attached to the bone. Especially is this the case where the bird is to have the wings spread. You may clean the roots of the feathers and sew them carefully to the ulna, but you can not get them as solid as they were, while to give them the even spacing and regular spread that they have in nature is quite out of the question. You can remove the muscles and tendons by making a cut on the under side of the wing from the elbow to the wrist, and the taxidermist who mounts your skins will set you down as one of the few who know now to make up a large skin properly. Take out the tendon back of the leg in long-legged birds of prey and waders, thereby render-

ing it possible for a leg to be wired readily, to say nothing of the fact that it is a great aid to keeping the scutellæ of the tarsus intact. To do this make an incision back of the heel (tibio-tarsal joint), and a second in the fleshy part of the foot. Sever the tendon at the heel, get an awl under it at the cut in the foot and pull it down. Remove the part contained in the tibial portion from above when you skin the leg.

Remove blood stains. Grease and dirt can be removed, but blood hard dried upon feathers is almost impossible to take off. Warm water and sugar will do something towards it, but not much.

Do not "bung out" a bird's eyes by putting too much cotton in the orbits. Be particularly careful about this in hawks, who have deep set eyes, which should be pressed inward rather than distended.

Get off as much fat as possible from the inside of a skin; otherwise it will be very apt to crack when it comes to be mounted.

Don't be afraid of opening a bird too high up on the breast. If you ever mounted half a dozen dry skins you will know why. In most skins the cut is too short for ready manipulation of the birds in mounting, and it is necessary to prolong it. Now the skin on the edge of the old cut will be shrunken and thickened, and a stitch taken it does not tear out; but the edges of the new cut are thin and weak, and a thread pulls easily through, causing great annoyance to the one at work thereon.

The above notes cover some of the most annoying mistakes made by collectors, and we trust they may not be without influence.

The first stamp dealers and collectors in the United States arose in 1861; the first hand-book appeared in 1863, and the first philatelic paper in 1864.

The postal clerks are very much averse to the three cent postage stamp giving out, because it gives them so much pleasure to punch the head of the "father of his country," for, unlike them, never telling a lie.—*South Bend Tribune.*

THE OLD CURIOSITY SHOP.

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BRANCH OFFICES.

CHICAGO.—W. H. Bishop, 77 Dearborn street.
CANADA.—Jos. Spence, 251 Parliament street,
Toronto, Ontario.

ENGLAND.—G. H. F. Gale, Margate, England.
FRANCE.—B. J. Somers, 26 Rue d' Angouleme,
Paris, France.

*Subscriptions and advertisements received at these offices at our usual rates.

Entered at the Cleveland post-office as second-class matter.

CLEVELAND, OHIO, March, 1883.

Ten Prize Offers.

Wishing to increase the circulation of THE OLD CURIOSITY SHOP the publishers make the following liberal offers.

FIRST.—For the first subscription received after this number is mailed. Ten varieties of foreign coins will be given.

SECOND.—To every dealer sending a cash advertisement before the next number is issued, a year's subscription will be given.

THIRD.—Any one sending four subscriptions and \$2 will receive a copy of Famous Funny Fellows (Price \$1) as a premium.

FOURTH.—A year's subscription free to any one who will send two new subscribers and \$1 inside of the next 30 days.

FIFTH.—For the largest list of words made from the word "Cleveland," 100 varieties of foreign stamps will be awarded as a prize. Only subscribers can compete. All lists must be received before May 1, 1883.

SIXTH.—For the second largest list of words, six different foreign coins will be awarded under the same rules.

SEVENTH.—The first lady sending 50 cents for a year's subscription will receive three fine photographs of rare Indian relics.

EIGHTH.—A foreign coin given to every resident of Canada who sends 50 cents for a year's subscription before our next issue.

NINTH.—Three confederate bills will

be given to the subscriber sending the best design for a U. S. postage stamp.

TENTH.—Lastly, we will send to every one who sends 50 cents for a year's subscription to THE OLD CURIOSITY SHOP within the next thirty days, 10 varieties of foreign postage stamps.

Stamp Notes.

Prior to 1847 the mail was carried on horseback, and it took three days to send a letter from New York to Boston.

Of the number of adhesive stamps, Spain leads with 212, and the United States comes next with 178, including 92 officials.

The blue numbers on the backs of the 1875 issue of Spain denote where they were taken from the sheet, the stamps being numbered consecutively.

Domestic postal cards first appeared in Austria in 1869, while Wurtemberg issued the first double and international cards in 1872 and 1878, respectively.

One, two, and three-cent postage stamps in fractional parts of a dollar, where fractional currency cannot be obtained, will be received by us at face value.

Only reliable dealers advertise in our paper. Purchasers of coins, stamps, etc., etc., will find it to their interest to consult our advertising columns before purchasing of others.

NUMISMATICS.

The Numismatic Society.

The American Numismatic and Archaeological Society held its twenty-fifth annual meeting March 20th, at the University of the City of New York. In the absence of the president, Dr. Charles E. Anthon, Mr. Daniel Parish, jr., presided. The treasurer's report showed a balance on hand of \$55.96. The librarian's report stated that 141 bound volumes and 154 pamphlets and catalogues had been added to the library. The curator reported that 2,950 pieces of value and rarity were in possession of the society, and the recent accessions were a proof set of English money, a rare Roman first bronze of Alexander Severus, and a fine example of early British tin money. The society now numbers 18 honorary members, 61 corresponding and 100 life and resident members. A letter was read from the president, congratulating the society on its success and progress. A short address was delivered by Algernon S. Sullivan. The proceedings concluded with the election of officers, which resulted as follows: president, Charles E. Anthon, LL. D.; vice-presidents, Daniel Parish, jr., Robert Hewitt, and Andrew C. Zabriskie; secretary, William Poillon; treasurer, Richard Hoe Lawrence, and curator, Charles H. Wright.

Government Coinage.

As to the coin, the government derives considerable profit from it. The silver in one thousand dollars costs on an average \$803.75. The coinage of a silver dollar costs about 1 1/4 cents. The total cost of one thousand silver dollars to the government is therefore \$816.25. Since the organization of the mint in 1793, 127,190,618 silver dollars have been coined, on which the government has received a profit of over \$23,000,000. In the same period \$122,758,510 was coined into half-dollars. At the same rate of cost for coinage the government profited \$19,395,769 on these. The total silver coinage of the government since 1793 is \$347,766,792. Estimating the profit on the halves, quarters and subsidiary coins at the same rate as on the dollars, the total profit received by the government on its silver coinage has been about \$64,000,000.

In the coinage of the five-cent nickels the government reserved to itself the liberal profit of nearly fifty per cent. This gave to the government last year the handsome revenue of over \$100,000 from nickels alone. The wide margin between the intrinsic value of the five-cent nickel and its face value led to extreme counterfeiting. Several years ago an assay was made of some of the counterfeit nickels, and it was discovered that the counterfeiters had put into their coins more valuable metal than the government uses in making the genuine coins.

Dealers in Counterfeits.

It shall always be the aim of this journal to expose at all times, dealers in counterfeit stamps or coins, and our patrons and readers should post us immediately upon any new discoveries in this respect. The following dealers sell counterfeit stamps, and we warn the Philatelic public to beware of them:

S. Allan Taylor, New York.
L. Perkins, Philadelphia.
Englehardt Folul, Saxony.
H. Baumer, Switzerland.
Dodson & Co., Sheffield, England.
Star Stamp Co., Port Hope, Ontario.
Atlas Stamp Co., New York.
Equitable Stamp Co., New York.
Eastern Traffic Co., Richmond, Va.
Wallace, Herly & Co., Richmond, Va.
Union Stamp Co., New York.
Triumph Stamp Co., Richmond, Va.

This list will be kept in print monthly for the benefit of our readers.

U. S. Proprietary Stamps.

There have been issued in the United States since 1861 about 825 varieties of private proprietary stamps, that is, counting the different kinds of papers, such as "old," "silk-threaded," "pink," and "watermarked," all of which have been ordered by patent medicine dealers and match manufacturers in the U. S., and can only be used by such, as they are strictly private. Of the 825 varieties that were issued, about 234 have been used by match and medicine firms in the metropolis. Eighty-two kinds have thus far made their appearance in the Quaker City, Boston lists about 68 well-known specimens, St. Louis comes next with about 46; 25 different styles have been used in Pittsburgh, 21 in Buffalo, 18 in Cincinnati, 16 in Louisville, 14 each in San Francisco and Detroit, 13 each in Baltimore, Providence and Cleveland, while Chicago has 12; the remaining 236 have been distributed from and used in smaller cities and towns by patent medicine and match firms. Besides these are some 165 different perforated, including probably 100 varieties unperforated document, and an immense number of spirit, tobacco, cigar, cigarette, and license stamps.

Several designs are under consideration

for the new two-cent stamp for first-class matter, which will supercede the 3c stamp after July 1, 1883. A favorite one is similar to the present 2c stamp, although the color is dark brown instead of red. It is not yet decided whose head shall ornament the new stamp, but it will probably be that of General Grant.

A GRAND PRIZE.

The publishers of THE OLD CURIOSITY SHOP beg leave to announce that they will give \$5 in gold for the best essay on any subject in Natural History received before April 1st, 1883. This offer is open to subscribers to this journal only. Subscriptions may be sent in with the articles entered for competition.

ANOTHER PRIZE OFFER.

The publishers of THE OLD CURIOSITY SHOP will award \$3 to the person sending to this office before the first of April, 1883, the best wood engraving of either a coin, stamp or bird egg. Only subscribers to this journal and non-professional engravers can compete for this prize.

FREE, 10 STAMPS AND CIRCULARS.

10 Spain 6 cents, 4 Victorla 2 cents, 2 Venezuela 5 cents, 3 Swiss Unpaid 5 cents, 2 Bhopal unused 20 cents. 4 Rare Roumania 5 cents, 10 Rare—unused, such as Bolivia, Natal Nicaragua, Bhopal,—post free, only 25 cents. W. F. BISHOP, 77 Dearborn street, Chicago, Ill.

ADVERTISEMENTS.

HEREAFTER a limited number of advertisements will be inserted in THE OLD CURIOSITY SHOP at the rate of 10 cents per line each and every insertion. No deviation from this rule. Cash must invariably accompany all orders.

RARE COINS—Bought, sold and exchanged. Also, Fractional Currency for sale. Ten cent catalogue for three cent stamp.

W. H. Steadman, Mifflinburg, Pa.

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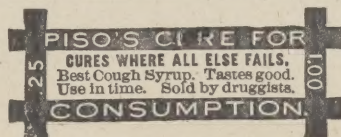
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W. F. SMITH, Stamp Dealer and Publisher, 406 West 47th street, New York. Vol. I. of the Library Table 35 cents. Standard stamp catalogue,—all issues to January 1, 1883,—containing 1,800 illustrations, post free, 28 cents.

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